

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DJIBOU 00238 181744Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CU-04
A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 IO-14 ACDA-10
OMB-01 DHA-02 DEAE-00 SNM-02 EB-07 /129 W
-----102711 181829Z/44

O P 181700Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 155
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

UNCLAS DJIBOUTI 0238

EO: 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS PBOR FT ET
SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN FIGHTING CAUSES MOUNTING TENSION DJIBOUTI

1. NEWS OF RENEWED FIGHTING IN DIRE DAWA AREA LED TO DEMONSTRATION BY YOUTHS OF SOMALI ETHNIC ORIGINS AGAINST ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY IN DJIBOUTI DURING MORNING HOURS 18 JULY. BEFORE DEMONSTRATION BROKEN UP BY POLICE USING TEAR GAS, A NUMBER OF WINDOWS WERE BROKEN IN THE ETHIOPIAN CHANCERY, BUT NO PERSONAL INJURIES WERE REPORTED. A CROWD ALSO DEMONSTRATED IN FRONT OF THE LIBYAN EMBASSY. MANY ACTS OF ISOLATED VIOLENCE, LOOTING, OTHER ATTACKS DIRECTED MOSTLY AGAINST ETHIOPIANS NOW COMMON OCCURENCE IN VARIOUS ETHNIC UNCLASSIFIED

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TOWNSHIPS WHICH ARE IN SOUTH PART OF TOWN.

2. ONE SIDE EFFECT OF FIGHTING IN DIRE DAWA HAS BEEN A FOUR DAY'S SUSPENSION DAILY ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES FLIGHT BRINGING 4 TONS OF KHAT, A MIO NARCOTIC CONSUMED HABITUALLY BY ALMOST THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF DJIBOUTI. THE WEED MUST BE CONSUMED WITHIN 72 HOURS TO BE EFFECTIVE, SO THAT TODAY'S DEMONSTRATION NO DOUBT IS RELATED

TO THE LACK OF THAT WHICH REPORTEDLY ACTS AS A CALMANT THAT SUP-PRESSES HUNGER PANGS AND THE EFFECTS OF HEAT. REPORTEDLY ET AIR-CRAFT WITHDRAWN TO TRANSPORT TROOPS AND IS NOT NECESSARILY EVI-DENCE THAT DIRE DAWA AIRPORT THREATENED.

3. LOCAL SOURCES REPORT DIRE DAWA VIRTUALLY CUT OFF BY ACTION WEST OGADEN LIBERATION FORCE. REBEL FORCES IN CITY REPORTEDLY GOING FROM DOOR TO DOOR IN LOWER TOWN ASKING CITY RESIDENTS TO FLEE THE COMING FIGHT FOR THE CITY. LARGE LOGISTICAL ACTIVITIES NOW AFOOT IN THIS AREA. APPARENTLY SOME LOCAL TRUCKS FROM DJIBOUTI ARE BEING CHARTERED BY SOMALI AUTHORITIES TO TRANSPORT MILITARY MATERIAL FROM BERBERA AND HARGEISA TO BATTLE ZONE. REPORTEDLY ONE CARAVAN OF 170 TRUCKS WAS ABLE TO PENETRATE ETHIOPIAN TERRI-TORY TO WITHIN 15 MILES OF DIRE DAWA WITHOUT BEING MOLESTED BY ETHIOPIAN TROOPS.

4. SOME LOCAL SOMALIS REPORT THAT SOMALI STATE RADIO STATIONS IN NORTHERN SOMALIA ARE BROADCASTING MARTIAL MUSIC, COMBINING WORDS EXTOLLING MILITARY MORALE WITH HARSH SPEECHES DIRECTED AGAINST ETHIOPIA IN A MOUNTING CAMPAIGN WHICH LOOKS PREPARATORY TO A GENERAL MOBILIZATION. CLARKE

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